the Scheduled Castes. This does not require consultation with the State Governments/ U.T. Administrations as there is no fresh inclusion of communities in the existing lists of Scheduled Castes.

(c) No specific time-limit can be given.

Upliftment of Backward Classes

1617. SHRI TINDIVANAM G. VENKATRAMAN : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there are any plans and programmes under consideration of Government to uplift the status of Backward Classes ; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI) : (a) and (b) The Government of India, vide OM dated 13th August, 1990 and OM dated 25th September, 1991 have provided reservation of 27% of the vacancies in civil posts and services to be filled by direct recruitment under the Government of India for Socially, Educationally Backward Classes. Preference will be given to candidates belonging to the poorer sections of the SEBCs. In case sufficient number of such candidates are not available, unfilled vacancies shall be filled by the other SEBC candidates.

National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation has been incorporated on 13-1-1992 as a company not for profit under Section 25 of the Companies, Act, 1956 with an authorised share capital of Rs. 200 Crores. It has a Paid up capital of Rs. 25 Crores. The objectives of the Corporation are reproduced below :—

(i) to promote economic & developmental activities for the benefit of Backward Classes ;

(ii) to assist, subject to such income and/or economic criteria as may be prescribed by the Government from time to time, individuals or groups of individuals belonging to Backward Classes by way of loans and advances for economically and financially viable schemes and projects ;

(iii) to promote self-employment and other ventures for the benefit of Backward Classes ;

(iv) to grant concessional finances in selected cases for persons belonging to Backward Classes below the poverty line in the country in collaboration with the Government/ Ministries/Departments at the National and State Level to the extent of the budgetary assistance granted by the Government of India to the Company ;

(v) to extend loans for pursuing general/professional/technical education or training at graduate and higher levels ;

(vi) to assist in the upgradation of technical and entero-reneurial skills of Backward Classes for proper and efficient management of production units ;

(vii) to assist the State level organisation to deal with the development of backward classes by way of providng financial assistance and in obtaining commercial funding by way of refinancing ;

(viii) to work as an apex institutions for coordination and monitoring the work of all Corporations/Boards set up by the State Government/UT Administrations for SC/ST, Backward Clases and Minorities in so as far as it relates to the economic development of the backward classes.

(ix) to help in furthering the Government policies and programmes for the development of the backward classes.

Catholic Relief Services

1618. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that the Catholic Relief Services, New Delhi

has misappropriated and misutilised huge funds and relief materials received by them from abroad during the last three years and

(b) if so, details thereof and the action taken by Government against this organisation ?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESARI) : (a) and (b) An audit by Price Waterhouse commissioned by United States Agency for International Development (USAID), revealed misappropriation of quantities of foodstuffs from two godowns of Madras Social Services Organisation, a counter-part organisation of Catholic Relief Services. The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) was asked to look into the irregularities brought out in the report. The CBI gave a finding that criminal misappropriation/embezzlement/ breach of trust may be investigated by the local police in respect of two employees of Madras Social Services Society and requested that US Authorities be advised to file a complaint with the local police for shortage of goods in two godowns.

The aforesaid Society filed an FIR with the Police Authorities *vide* Crime No. X Cr. No. 1780/90-No. 408 IPC on 31st December, 1990. In October, 1991, the Madras Police informed the complainant that the complaint was non-cognizable.

Since 1989, Madras Social Services Society has not been a CRS counterpart.

Probe into Aukaf Misappropriation

1619. SHRI SHABBIR AHMAD SALARIA : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Probe ordered into Aukaf Misappropriation" which appeared in the 'Kashmir' Times' dated the 31st March, 1992 ; and

(b) the names of the members of the Advisory Committee for Aukaf in Jammu and Kashmir and what are its terms of reference ?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI) : (a) and (b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Misappropriation of Auqaf Fund in Jammu

1620. SHRI SHABBIR AHMAD SALARIA : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) what are the particulars of the former administrators who have misappropriated 43 lakh rupees as reported in the news-item under the caption 'Probe ordered into Auqaf Misappropriation' which appeared in 'the Kashmir Times' dated the 31st March, 1992 ; so far ;

(b) what are the details of the misappropriations ; and

(c) whether any case has been registered against them and if so, the present state thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI) : (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

डा० भीमराव अम्बेडकर शताब्दी वर्ष

1621. **श्री अजीत जोगी** : क्या **कल्याण** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार ने डा० भीमराव अम्बेडकर शताब्दी वर्ष के समारोहों की अवधि 14 अप्रैल, 1992 तक बढ़ा दी है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो क्या सरकार ने डा० भीमराव अम्बेडकर जन्म शताब्दी समारोह समिति का पुनर्गठन किया है;

(ग) यदि हां, तो उसका ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(घ) यदि नहीं, तो उसके क्या कारण हैं ?

कल्याण मंत्री (श्री सीताराम केसरी) : (क) से (घ) बाबा साहेब डा० भीमराव अम्बेडकर शताब्दी समारोह 14 अप्रैल, 1990 से 14 अप्रैल, 1992 तक मनाया गया था ।